

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	EB-00	EUR-00
	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-00
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-00	OIG-00	OMB-00	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	IIP-00	PMB-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	SAS-00
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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8429
INFO ECOWAS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
CDR USEUCOM VAHINGEN GE PRIORITY
CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 000845

SIPDIS

PARIS FOR CHARLES NEARY
PRETORIA FOR TIM TRENKLE
EUCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/05/2015
TAGS: [GH](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [TO](#)
SUBJECT: TOGO OPPOSITION LEADER GILCHRIST OLYMPIO HEADING
TO EUROPE

REF: ACCRA 809

Classified By: Polchief Scott Ticknor for reasons 1.5 d and e.

[11.](#) (C) Summary: On May 4, PolChief met again with Togolese opposition leader Gilchrist Olympio, at PolChief's request, to discuss recent developments. Olympio had just met with President Kufuor, who asked him if he would meet with Nigerian President Obasanjo again, and with Ghana's Foreign Minister, who encouraged him to support a government of national unity and reject violence. Olympio is willing to meet with Obasanjo if he can guarantee implementation of the outcome of talks. He will not make a unilateral call for an end to the violence (he wants the government to go first) and would be willing to cooperate in a government of national unity if it is based on the actual election results. Olympio is leaving for Europe May 5 to lobby for EU, German and other support. He still hopes for an international "convenor" of a dialogue. End summary.

Meeting with the GOG

[12.](#) (C) Before traveling out of Ghana, Olympio paid a courtesy call on President Kufuor earlier on May 4 to thank him for the GOG's security and protocol assistance. Olympio said Kufuor asked him if he would meet with Nigerian President Obasanjo again. Olympio responded that he would meet with Obasanjo if the Nigerian President could guarantee implementation of the outcome of the talks. His meeting with Kufuor was followed by a three hour meeting with Ghanaian Foreign Minister Nana Akufo Addo, who Olympio said was an old college friend. According to Olympio, Kufuor and Akufo Addo had a misperception that the opposition was causing a lot of the violence in Togo. Olympio made the case to them that the opposition was poorly armed with sticks and sling shots and that it was the army that was using guns and excessive force.

[13.](#) (C) Akufo Addo encouraged the opposition to support a government of national unity and reject violence. Olympio responded that the opposition agreed with this in principle, but "the question is who is going to run the show?" The election outcome (a 10:1 opposition victory, he reiterated) would have to serve as a basis for a national government. The Togo government has refused a recount and the African Union, ECOWAS, and France refused to review the opposition election tallies, Olympio said. The opposition did not want to serve as a minority partner to Gnassingbe. Since the government is behind most of the violence, the government has to first call for an end to it, Olympio told Akufo Addo. If the government called for an end to violence and took measures to implement it, the opposition would follow suit.

Searching for International Support

14. (C) Olympio plans to leave Accra May 5 for meetings with the European Union Commissioner in Brussels, and meetings in Germany and France. He reiterated that "it is clear we can't find a solution alone...we need a white knight." Olympio spoke to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan on May 3, who said he would talk to Nigerian President Obasanjo about Togo. Olympio said the British told him frankly that they have no interests in Togo and are disinclined to get involved. He said he had talked to ECOWAS Executive Director Chambas but had no faith in the organization and thought nothing productive had come from the ECOWAS meetings in Lome over the past weekend.

15. (C) Olympio made another pitch for U.S. assistance as a "convenor" of a dialogue. He said he might travel to the U.S. after Europe, although he conceded that the U.S. may not get involved because "Togo is far away." He was more hopeful that the Germans, Dutch, or the EU might help. So far the Germans have been sympathetic, although they told him "don't expect us to send the Luftwaffe to Paris" on Togo's behalf. Olympio thought there were different currents within the EU, some of them not necessarily supporting France. Obasanjo

could play an important role if he comes up with good, concrete proposals for compromise. Olympio envisions a short term arrangement with rotating temporary presidents during a period leading up to clean elections. Alternatively, Olympio suggested a UN Administrator could run Togo during an interim period.

Ending the Violence

16. (C) PolChief pressed hard on the need for the opposition to publicly reject violence. Olympio said the government needs to first stop killing people, adding that "the oppression is ferocious", with several hundred dead. A statement of nonviolence cannot be unilateral. Ordinary Togolese are being attacked by government forces, feel the need to fight back, and would not go along with a unilateral appeal for calm.

Comment

17. (C) Olympio had planned to leave Accra the night of May 4 (after our meeting). However, he said he was so exhausted from stress and lack of sleep that he postponed his trip by a day. He does not know how long he will be away from West Africa but clearly sees a priority need to lobby western governments for support. He is well connected in Europe and will start there. He told PolChief he would have no difficulties returning to Ghana (despite some discomfort at his activism the GOG has been generally tolerant of his presence here). His party is well organized and disciplined within Togo, implying that his proximity was not essential. In addition, phone connections work much better from Europe to Togo than from Ghana, he said, so he will be well connected to events in Lome.

18. (C) He does not appear to be planning to return to Togo any time soon (and gave PolChief his Paris phone numbers). Unlike in our previous meeting (reftel), in which he said he would travel to Lome for an internationally-convoked dialogue, this time he was explicit that this kind of meeting could not take place in Lome for security reasons. He noted that Akitani-Bob is in hiding and fears for his life. Other opposition leaders are nervous but are hoping that staying near large numbers of supporters will deter military action. Olympio reminded PolChief, as he does in almost every meeting, that he had survived an assassination attempt.

YATES

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